Groton June 27. 1838

Dear Anne

Your very welcome letter of 13 inst. found us engaged in civilities to our friends. The Stewarts were very pleasant company. Mr. S is an original. I became well acquainted with him at the N.Y. anniversary meeting & he then promised me a visit. He thinks deeply, & thinks much, but in his own peculiar way. He is very interesting in the parlour where he feels at home — frequently astonishing & charming his auditors by the variety & originality of his thoughts. He is not an ordinary man. To discover his strength, a great weight must be thrown upon him, & then the giant is seen. Mrs. S. is a very lady like woman, of good sense, & good manners. Miss S. is a picture, but you have seen her. She is well educated, &, I think her powers of mind above mediocrity. I was much pleased with their visit, as you may well suppose. They had hardly left, when my Brothers from Norwich & Boston arrived which with other calls added to my multifarious duties & employments has kept me constantly employed. I regretted not having Stanton with us. It was his intention to pass a few days here, but I could not take him with us for want of room in the carriage. He promises a visit soon.

You told me you were going to Weymouth to keep house. Presuming that you have ~~returned~~ long before this time, that your housekeeping is not very large, & returned to the city, I should direct this to Boston. — Many times have

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There is a reaction begun here. Abolition was prostrate but is now reviving again. Dudley Phelps will hardly regain his ascendancy over the abolitionists again. They begin to perceive his hypocrisy, & to charge him with it. He is really a bad fellow. With talents that might do much good if rightly directed, he is an incubus, or rather a deadly foe to every thing good. By giving him rope, I shall be disappointed if he does not hang himself in all good time. Stuart unmasked the hypocrite, & applyd the lash with a severity which must have made him writhe tho' his soul were made of brass. Dudley told an Andover student the other day that "there was no abolition here - that it was all flat," This has awakened some to a proper sense of his worth to the antislavery cause.

Strange tho' it be, I am provoked at the conduct of the women. They are a mischief making set of bodies. They gather round the minister in every country village, & make tea for him, & flatter him, & soap him, & daub him until he is ruined. But he pays them well for their folly, by ever after leading them by the nose & making them do his dirty work. Like a flock of silly pigeons they fly into the net with their eyes open. Do hasten the emancipation of the women - I see more ~~cause~~ reason every day for wishing success to that cause. But I am looking only to one side - were you to reply, better look to your own sex, you have nothing to boast of - I should feel that the rebuke would be just. Alas, how few are there in the world who have bid good bye to the nursery - have left off holding upon chairs, table legs, & the old nurse's finger!!

When I first heard of the Philadelphia Mob I was on the point of penning an epistle of congratulation to Maria on her success in getting into mobs. But I now sincerely congratulate both her & yourself on her recovery. I hope she will keep quiet until her strength has fully returned. Strength comes back very gradually after fever – time must be allowed for it. I hope she will not attempt to hasten it by taking Barks, wine, or Drugs of any sort. Appropriate food & time is best. Health thus gained, is worth twice as much as when obtained by hot bed culture.

Now is the time when I expected to be catching trout at the White Mountains. Circumstances will continue to delay that excursion. I am expecting Mr. & Mrs. Hill from Boston to pass a week. Then we are to have Mr. Collins from Andover to speak about Slavery on the 4 July. I k not where the end will be. This Antislavery business i interminable. I have promised, you know, many times to quit it, but as yet I see no way of escape. I was at Marlboro' on an abolition errand Friday last. A tree was riven by lightning within fifteen rods of me. Had it taken me in its course the proslavery world would have said "as a fool dieth so died he" – "'twas good enough for him, he had no business there." How much easier to sail with the current & the wind, than to breast both; & how much wiser are those who choose that course, than those addle pated fools who are forever knocking their crowns against brick bats, & quarreling with all the world.

My Domestic arrangements are now, I believe, about perfect. I thank you however for your suggestions touching those matters. I need counsel, & am always thankful for it.

I expect to go to Boston on Saturday next, to return on Monday will you not step into my chaise & ride up with me? I want one or two extra hands to help at haying.

Yours truly A Farnsworth

Groton Ms
June 27

Paid
A.F.
Paid 10

Miss. Anne Warren Weston
Care of Henry G Chapman Esqr
Boston
Mass

June 27. 1838

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